

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method for accessing a message in a conditional access system, the method comprising:

receiving rights message with a set top box, wherein said rights message individually conveys access rights to said set top box for at least one functional unit in said set top box;

receiving an authorization message with said set top box, wherein said authorization message is transmitted to a plurality of separate set top boxes and specifies required rights for use of a separately received software object by said set top box;

determining whether said set top box is authorized to access the separately received software object by comparing said access rights conveyed to said set top box in said rights message with said required rights specified by said first authorization message; and

matching object identifiers in the authorization message with the object identifiers in the separately received software object;

forming a signatory group using the authorization message and the separately received software object;

calculating a signature over the signatory group;

comparing the signature with a received signature; and

blocking access to the separately received software object by the set top box as a function of determining whether the set top box is authorized to access the separately received software object, matching object identifiers in the authorization message and the separately received software object, and comparing the signature with a received signature.

10. (previously presented) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein blocking access to the separately received software object comprises ignoring a portion of a datastream associated with the separately received software object.

11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received software object comprises a software program.

13-26. (cancelled)

27. (previously presented) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received software object comprises video content.

28. (previously presented) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access system as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received software object comprises audio content.

29. (previously presented) The method for accessing a message in a conditional access systems as recited in claim 9, wherein the separately received software object comprises firmware.